



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

News Release #02-47

Date:
September 18, 2002

Contact:
Dutch Meier

Phone:
(509) 527-7020

McNary Dam workers uninjured, fire suppression activated when power plant worker detects smoke

Umatilla, Ore., -- No one was injured and everyone was evacuated safely from McNary Dam this afternoon after an employee activated fire suppression systems when he detected smoke coming from a hydropower turbine used to make electricity, according to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers official.

The fire was extinguished by carbon dioxide dispensing systems installed at each of the dam's 14 power-generating turbines, said a senior power plant operator at the dam operated by the Corps' Walla Walla District. Nearly 60 people were on duty at 1:30 p.m. when the systems were activated. Power plant workers were sent home for the day because heavy smoke filled the inside of the power house and took several hours to clear.

No preliminary cause or source for the fire has been established. Experts will arrive at the dam early Thursday to try to determine why the fire began, the extent of the damage, and prepare an estimate of how long it will take to bring the generator back into service.

WEB ADDRESS TO PHOTO OF DAM'S EXTERIOR: <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/dpn/nwwn003a.jpg>

-30-

MEDIA ADVIORY: Outlets calling after hours should contact the Public Affairs Office at (509) 527-7020 and wait for the call to be forwarded. All requests for followup or site visit must be coordinated with PAO in advance due to ongoing security controls and restricted access procedures.

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876
Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824 CELL (509) 520-1468
Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil